

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT**Annual Report**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH*For the Year 1951*

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

Members of the Council

(1951-1952)

Chairman:

A. J. C. CATFORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

N. SLADDEN

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

W. G. BACK, J.P.

W. G. D. CAMERON

T. G. DAVIES

A. DEVLIN

A. FARR

H. LETCH

S. C. LITTLECHILD

W. H. SPRATT

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

J. S. RUCK, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks:

E. P. MOLYNEUX

MRS. I. M. PENTECOST

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my eleventh Annual Report, on the health of the District for the year 1951.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Birth rate of 17.8 (per 1,000 population) is below the average of 19.3 for the past 5 years, but above the average of 16.9 for the past 25 years. The Death rate of 5.5 (per 1,000 population) is again conspicuously low, the average rate for the past 25 years being 8.4. For England and Wales, the Birth and Death rates are 15.5 and 12.5 respectively.

DIPHTHERIA

A monthly clinic is held for immunisation and close co-operation is maintained with the Divisional Medical Officer. 93 Children were immunised at the clinic during the year. For the sixth successive year there were no notifications of diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 15 new cases during the year as compared with 11, 10, 15, 12 and 12 respectively in the years 1950 to 1946 inclusive. These figures do not include cases reported from Shenley Hospital.

FOOD PREPARERS

During the year regular sampling of ice-cream was continued in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Bulletin for March, 1947. Results are given on page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

HOUSING

86 permanent houses were completed and occupied during the year, 66 by the Council and 20 privately. In addition 241 houses were completed and occupied on the London County Council estates in the district. The increase in population, which will gain momentum in the next year or two, has brought additional work and new problems. Not the least of these problems is the growing need for a local hospital.

GENERAL

I would like to express my thanks once more to the Council for their support during the year and to the Sanitary Inspector and officials generally for their willing help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,339 acres
Population, 1931 Census*	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,946
Population, 1951 Census	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,757
Registrar-General's estimate of							
(a) resident population mid-1951	..						
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	..	..					14,960
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to Rate					Elstree	..	2,990
Books	..	..	..		Shenley	..	579
					Ridge	..	78
Rateable Value (1st April, 1952)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£146,992
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1952)							£640

* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographing processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the London Midland Region Railway Line. On the east side of the London Midland Region Railway Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, pertol tanks, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

During the year 241 houses were completed and occupied on the L.C.C. Housing Site No. 2 (Ripon Way area) and during the latter part of the year roads and sewers were being constructed on the Site No. 1 (Theobald Street).

VITAL STATISTICS

				Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	..	..	256	134	122
	Illegitimate	..	..	10	5	5

Birth Rate: 17.8 per 1,000 *estimated resident population.*

Deaths of Infants under 1 of year age

Legitimate	..	..	..	4	1	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	1	1	—

Rates:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	18.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	15.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	100.0

			Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	5	3
Rate: 18.5 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births</i>					

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			Nil		
Deaths	..	..	..	83	45
Death Rate: 5.5 per 1,000 <i>estimated average population.</i>					

The Comparability Factor (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the Country as a whole) is given as 1.04 for births and 1.14 for Deaths. The following table shows how the local birth and death rates compare with those given for London and for the whole country.

	Elstree R.D.C.	Administrative County of London	England & Wales
Birth Rate	..	18.5*	17.8
Death Rate	..	6.3*	13.1

* Actual rate \times Comparability Factor to give Standardised rate.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One Senior and one additional Sanitary Inspector.

(Both whole-time, both qualified Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors).

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council Laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Coppetts Wood Isolation Hospital. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at the Fire Station, Manor Way and is manned by the Herts Fire and Ambulance Brigade Staff. If this service is not available Ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. Two whole-time Health Visitors cover the Elstree Rural District.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare
First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood.

Ante-Natal:
2nd and 4th Thursdays at p.m.

Infants:
Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation: 2nd Wednesday in each month at 10 a.m.

(ii) School Dental Clinic
Hillside Secondary Modern School
Boreham Wood.

(Closed as from 1st May 1948 due to
resignation of School Dental Officer.)

(e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group (No. 5) Hospital Management Committee

Barnet General Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 478 beds, with the usual medical and surgical facilities. Regular consultant clinics are as follows:—

Ante-natal	Orthopaedic
Dental	Paediatric
Dermatological	Physical
Chiropody	medicine
Ear, nose and throat	Post-natal
Geriatric	Psychiatric
Gynaecological	Radiotherapy
Medical	Sub-Fertility (Males)
Neurology	Surgical
Ophthalmic	Tuberculosis

St. Stephens Hospital
(formerly Barnet Isolation Hospital) Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.

Victoria Hospital,
Wood Street, Barnet.

Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 Maternity beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hall Hospital,
South Mimms.

Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Elmbank Hospital,
Arkley.

Hospital for chronic sick aged female patients with complement of 27 beds.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Hill End Hospital and Clinic,
St. Albans.

Psychiatric and Child Guidance service.
Mondays to Fridays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Patients seen by appointment only)

St. Albans City Hospital,
Osterhills Unit,
Normandy Road, St. Albans.

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances:

Females:

Tuesdays 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:

Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.
Fridays 5 to 7 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey Hospital,
Bushey.

General Hospital with complement of 38 beds.

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppets Wood Hospital,
London, N.20.
(Tel.: TUDor 1160)

All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1951 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valley Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—
556 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.
2,069 samples of supply water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.
337 samples of raw water were examined chemically and the results were variable.
446 samples of supply water were examined chemically and the results were very satisfactory.
3. The water is not likely to be plumbo-solvent.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 3,647 houses in the district:—
 - (a) 3,624 or 99.4 per cent are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house.
 - (b) 12 or .3 per cent by means of standpipes (6 Shenley Parish, 6 Ridge Parish)
 - (c) 11 isolated houses have no piped water supply (9 Shenley Parish, 2 Ridge Parish).

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the two sewage works in the Elstree Parish were closed down and connection was made to the trunk sewer forming part of the Colne Valley Sewerage Scheme (disposal works at Maple Cross).

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

A few cases of minor pollution of streams were investigated. Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. Insecticide as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water-closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 12.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1951 was two, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) 27 annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of caravanners resident in the area at one time, excluding holders of individual licences, 180.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was taken during the year. The Council is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council; the Sanitary Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

5. RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector. During the year 88 domestic premises and 17 business and other premises received treatment. No Statutory action was taken during the year.

The Council operate a free service for domestic premises but charges are made for rodent control treatment carried out to business premises.

The annual test baiting of the sewers was carried out covering the whole of the district. 61 manholes were baited and there was one complete take of the baits laid; this manhole was subsequently treated with poisoned bait.

SECTION D HOUSING

Summary of action taken during the year is given on page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report. No houses were closed or demolished during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

For results of routine sampling and details of licences issued see page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

During the year one notice was served under Regulation 20 of the Milk Regulations 1949 requiring the heat treatment of milk in respect of which a sample was reported, after biological examination for tubercle bacilli, to be positive. Subsequently, the herd was certified non-tuberculous and the notice was withdrawn.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) ICE CREAM

See page 17 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 15 cases of Scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths. Seven cases were removed to Isolation Hospital.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Routine terminal disinfection has been discontinued except in the cases where other children are in the family or where so requested by the householder. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	15	7	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—
Measles ..	55	1	—
Whooping Cough ..	40	—	—
Pneumonia ..	2	—	—
Dysentery ..	17	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	1	1	—
Infective Hepatitis ..	4	—	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever ..		1			4	10						
Diphtheria ..												
Puerperal Pyrexia ..												
Erysipelas ..												
Measles ..	1	2	7	11	14	14	1	1	4			
Whooping Cough ..	2	4	3	9	10	11	1			1	1	8
Pneumonia ..									5	3	1	
Dysentery ..										1		
Poliomyelitis ..											1	
Infective Hepatitis ..						1	1	1	1			

Tuberculosis—New cases and mortality during 1951.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ..								
1—5 ..								
5—15 ..								
15—25 ..	3	2	1		1			
25—35 ..	1	1						
35—45 ..	2		1	1	2		1	
45—55 ..					1			
55—65 ..	1				1			
65 and up ..	1				1			
TOTALS	8	3	2	2	5	1		

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

My Annual Report for the year 1951, which I now have pleasure in submitting, is, rather ominously, my thirteenth in your service. I do not think it is characterised by any of the ill-omens usually associated with that number.

During the year, a great deal of prominence has been accorded to the caravan problem and the number of applications for licences to station and occupy this type of dwelling has increased momentously. At the close of the year there were approximately 94 caravans in the whole of the district, 64 on two licensed sites, 27 holders of individual licences and 3 unauthorised. All individual caravans are subject to annual licence and a close surveillance is maintained to ensure that public health requirements are complied with.

The Food Bye-Laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 have proved a valuable addition to your officers' powers of enforcing a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the food industry. All food handlers and preparers in the district are visited regularly to ensure compliance with the Food and Drug Act and Bye-Laws.

The Rural Housing Survey is now in process of being brought up-to-date and I hope to comment on this in my next report.

May I once again express to you my thanks for your continued confidence and support and to my colleagues and staff my appreciation of their unstinting cooperation and assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

**PARTICULARS OF
INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR**

Rural Housing Survey:

Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	5
Visits and re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	3
Public Health Act inspections	..	..	..	..	..	124
Public Health Act re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	170
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	..	..	..	..	..	42
Visits in respect of:						
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	223
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	120
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	27
Animals	..	..	..	..	..	23
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	25
Dirty Houses	..	..	..	..	..	19
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	198
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	92
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	1
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	—
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	10
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	—
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	59
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	22
Food Preparers	..	..	..	..	..	232
Meat Shops	..	..	..	..	..	15
Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	..	26
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	14
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	31
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	44
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	41
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	91
Passage Paving	..	..	..	..	..	14
Offices	..	..	..	..	..	17
Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	18
Rats	..	..	..	..	..	405
Water Courses	..	..	..	..	..	11
Housing Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	306
Rag Flock Act	..	..	..	..	..	4
Milk Samples	..	..	..	..	..	22

TOTAL 2,454

**DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES AND STATUTORY
NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR**

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices Served.
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc.	33
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	4
Overcrowding	—
Drainage	13
Defective paving of yards and passages	—
Defective w.c. and connections	7
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	4
Choked and insanitary watercourses	1
Filthy or verminous premises	—
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.)	2
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Company) ..	4
Offensive accumulations	2
Improper keeping of animals	4
Dairies	—
Food preparers	25
Factories and Offices	11
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	—
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	—
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements)	—
Removal of Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structures ..	—
Conveniences	—
Rodent Control (Proofing etc.)	2
TOTAL	112

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Dilapidated dustbins	Section 75 Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Nuisances	Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Insufficient water supply	Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936 (as amended by Section 30, Water Act, 1945)	27	27

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF
INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

				No. of Premises
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	..	..	..	10
Floors repaired	..	..	..	5
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed	..	..	..	3
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	..	..	..	17
External brickwork repointed or repaired	..	..	..	2
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	..	..	..	—
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	5
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	..	..	..	1
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved	..	..	..	—
Adequate water supply provided	..	..	..	—
Hot and cold supply cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	2
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	..	..	..	5
W.C. and sink connections repaired	..	..	..	11
Paving to yards and passages repaired	..	..	..	—
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	8
Water courses cleansed	..	..	..	—
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	2
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	..	..	..	3
Dairies limewashed	..	..	..	—
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	..	..	..	—
Food preparers' premises improved	..	..	..	28
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	13
*Verminous houses disinfested	..	..	..	25
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	—
Factory defects remedied	..	..	..	10
Smoke nuisance remedied	..	..	..	—
Moveable dwellings removed	..	..	..	—
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	..	..	..	—
Conveniences improved or repaired	..	..	..	—
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements improved or provided)	..	..	..	2
			TOTAL	<u>152</u>

* Including woodworm and ant infestations.

**ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED
AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS**

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	—	1	—	—	33
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ..	—	—	—	—	9%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis)	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of retail purveyors

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences	5	4	5	14
Supplementary Licences	3	2	2	7

The following table gives particulars of samples taken during the year from purveyors in the district. In every case the result was satisfactory:

Total No. of Samples	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
32	—	—	26	6

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There are 6 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for manufacture and sale, and 14 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Only one manufacturer was actually operating during the year.

16 samples were taken during the year of which 8 were from vendors trading ice-cream manufactured outside the district and the remainder from the manufacturer within the district. The results of the bacteriological examinations are as follows:—

Results				
Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Void
8	3	2	2	1

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

It will be seen that 73 per cent of samples fall into Grades 1 and 2, and 27 per cent fall into Grades 3 and 4.

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 26

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs				—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:				
(a)	By owners				1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..				—
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts				
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied				27
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
(a)	By owners				1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..				—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951

Part 1 of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	12	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	80	11	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	84	92	11	—